

REMARKS

Applicants reassert the arguments recited in Amendment B filed June 30, 2008, and additionally assert that the arguments are commensurate in scope with the claims as amended.

Reuter (EP 0624667) discloses only that an overlay structure overlaps the lateral ends of a radially outermost belt ply by “a few mm.” Applicants argue that an overlap of “a few mm” does not disclose or suggest a belt reinforcement layer that overhangs a maximum-width portion of a belt layer by 15-20 mm. Amended claim 1 recites that a belt reinforcement layer overhangs the maximum-width portion of a belt layer by 15-20 mm. Accordingly, the presented argument is commensurate in scope with the amended claim.

Reuter also discloses that at a stress of about 60 N, or more preferably 75 N, an elongation of an aramid cord in the overlay should be 3%. Moreover, Reuter fails to disclose or suggest an elongation of more than 3% for any amount of stress applied to the cord. Applicants argue that claim 1, as amended, recites that the elongation is set to be between 3.5% and 5.5% under a load of 67 N. Because claim 1, as amended, recites that an intermediate elongation of reinforcing cords of the belt reinforcement layer under a load of 67 N is set in a range of 3.5% to 5.5%, the presented argument is commensurate in scope with the amended claim.

Hirai (JP 2003002015) appears to disclose a reinforcing layer that overhangs the underlying belt layers by more than 10 mm. However, Applicants assert that Hirai is silent regarding an overhang of 15-20 mm, as recited in amended claim 1. Thus, the

argument is commensurate in scope with the amended claims. Accordingly, all arguments presented by Applicants are commensurate in scope with the claims as amended.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants believe that this case is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner should call applicants' attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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